

Water-Dependent Cultural RMS – Update 2013 Working Outline



RMS Objective:

- Increase awareness and consideration of water-dependent cultural uses, resources, practices and perspectives within water management decisions.
- Expand the discussion on cultural considerations.
- Provide guidance and tools to identify and address cultural factors relating to water planning and management.
- Identify potential management practices that are most likely to affect cultural factors.

Definition:

- What is it? (lifeways, religious practices, community identity, beliefs and values, subsistence activities, quality of life)
- Who is affected?
- When and where do cultural resources/considerations occur?
- Potential Cultural topics (cultural resources and considerations) and examples:
 - Subsistence activities: fishing, root/reed collection, and more
 - Working landscapes: ranching, farming, and more
 - Traditional resource management practices: burning, stewardship activities, and more
 - Ceremonies and community events: Fleet Week, salmon festivals, Native American dances, and more
 - Culturally/historically significant places, objects and systems: historic flume structures, village sites, mining remnants, and more
 - Recreation activities: surfing, fishing, boating, swimming and more
 - Perspectives on the nature/essence of water: water is scarce/abundant/sacred/fun and how those perspectives affect water management.
 - Other...

Current Setting: What is the current situation? Why are cultural considerations important?

- “Cultural Resource Management” requirements (environmental impact reports/statements)
- State Historic Preservation Office (preserving things/places)
- AB 716 (valuing historic features, lifeways, community identities)
- Environmental justice, disadvantaged communities and public trust (equitable distribution of effects)
- Understand current water resource conditions (e.g. legacy effects of mining practices)
- Understand context for water management decisions (water managers’ roles regarding cultural resources and considerations) and current coordination efforts – e.g. how cultural considerations affects and are affected by water management
- Connections to other RMSs and integrated water management objectives
 - water flows
 - water quality
 - system reoperation
 - new facilities construction
 - watershed management
 - integrated flood management
 - land use planning
 - etc...
- Quality of life for Californians
- Other...

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Potential Benefits:

- Public health
- Social identity and cohesion
- Economic and tourism
- Environmental conditions
- Value add (climate change, flood management, supply, others)
- Healthy, robust communities
- Healthy water bodies
- Other...

Potential Costs:

- System reoperation
- Outreach and education
- Tradeoffs between conflicting needs
- Increased understanding of tradeoffs and how decisions get made
- Other...

Major Issues Facing Water-dependent Cultural Resources and Practices

- Low awareness
- Low priority
- Dispersed users
- Loss of cultural resources, sites and practices
- Influx of invasive species
- Conflicts/tradeoffs between uses/users
- Tendency towards single-issues solutions that may have unintended consequences

Recommendations to Support Water-dependent Cultural Resources and Considerations (toolkit for how to address issues)

- Outreach and education
 - Information sharing including traditional, technical and place-based knowledge
 - User-friendly communication methods and approaches
 - Partnering with non-profits and advocacy groups
 - Interpretive information, displays and events
- Access to cultural sites and support of cultural activities and practices
- Preservation and restoration activities
- Cultural resource monitoring
- Examples of best practices
- References and contacts
- How to identify cultural resources and considerations
- Other...

References

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